# OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND DISEASES IN **ALBERTA**

Lost-Time Claims and Claim Rates

# Wholesale & Retail Industries

2001 to 2005

Released July 2006

WORK SAFE ALBERTA

Alberta Human Resources and Employment

*Building Alberta's Workforce*

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# HIGHLIGHTS

## From 2001 to 2005...

- There were 34,097 claims from workers in the Wholesale and Retail industries. Of those, 35.2% involved the Food and Beverage Stores sub-sector.
- Sprains, strains and tears were the most common nature of injury, accounting for over half of the total lost-time claims.
- The trunk was the most common body part injured, accounting for 41.8% of total claims.
- Overexertion accounted for 28.5% accident types, while being struck by objects accounted for 14.9% of claims.
- Nearly half of lost-time claims were from workers aged between 25 and 44 years.
- Claims with durations of disability between one and five days accounted for 43.5% of all claims.

## In 2005...

- The Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) – Alberta accepted 6,969 lost-time claims from Wholesale and Retail workers, representing 19.7% of all lost-time claims in the province.
- The lost-time claim rate for the Wholesale and Retail industries was 2.4 per 100 person-years, the lowest rate achieved in the last five years.
- Employers with 100 or more person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate of 2.9 per 100 person-years.
- Less than two percent of employers in the Wholesale and Retail industries had a valid Certificate of Recognition (COR).
- The WCB accepted 11 occupational fatalities for compensation in the Wholesale and Retail industries, representing 7.7% of all workplace fatalities accepted in Alberta.

SECTION 1

# INTRODUCTION

## Role of Alberta Human Resources and Employment

Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE) provides a continuum of services and information to support the development of a skilled and productive labour force; fair, safe, healthy and productive workplaces; and helping improve the well-being of Albertans. AHRE develops and delivers programs and services that contribute to workplaces for employees and employers by:

- working with industry and safety associations to audit and certify health and safety programs
- helping employers, employees, unions and industry associations work together by offering facilitation services, workshops and partnership opportunities
- developing and maintaining policy and legislated employment standards in Alberta
- preparing and providing ongoing support of Alberta's workplace health and safety regulations
- explaining legislated standards under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and the *Employment Standards Code* and ensuring compliance through complaint resolution, investigation and targeted inspections.

## Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Wholesale and Retail Industries 2001 to 2005

Each year, AHRE prepares a report on the occupational injuries and diseases in the Wholesale and Retail industries. The purpose of this report is to provide government, employers, workers, and health and safety professionals in the Wholesale and Retail industries with information about key health and safety issues.

This report includes:

- an estimation of the risk of injury or disease in addition to general descriptive information about incidents and injured workers
- the number of employers that earned a Certificate of Recognition (COR)
- occupational fatalities accepted by the WCB for compensation and fatality rates for the Wholesale and Retail industries.

## Notes about this report:

- This report presents 2005 data beside 2004 data to help with comparisons. Additional historical data are presented where possible.

- Estimates of year-on-year change presented in this report are calculated using unrounded figures and may not match those produced from rounded figures.

- Throughout the report, the lost-time claim rate is the number of claims per 100 person-years, and the duration rate is the number of days lost per 100 person-years.

- In 2005, improvements have been made to the data collection. A stricter definition of a lost-time claim has been adopted and applied to the data covering the period 2001 to 2005. Previously, a small proportion of modified-work claims were also captured as lost-time.

- Figures presented for 2004 and 2005 also include improvements in industry coverage. Figures for 2004 include lost-time claims made in the Auto dealers industry, previously not captured. Data for 2005 includes both the claims and person-years data for the Auto dealers industry.

- Improvements have also been made in the analysis by workers occupation. The 2001 National Occupation Classification (NOC) has been adopted for the presentation of figures by occupation. The NOC 2001 provides a standardized framework reflecting the Canadian labour market. For further information please see http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/generic/welcome.shtml

- Terms, definitions and formulas are described in Appendix A. Industry codes are listed in Appendix B.

SECTION 2

# LOST-TIME CLAIM RATE AND DURATION RATE

**The lost-time claim rate[1] represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one year. The 2005 lost-time claim rate for the Wholesale and Retail industries was 2.4 per 100 person-years.**

In 2005, there were 6,969 lost-time claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries, representing 19.7% of total lost-time claims in the province. The Wholesale and Retail industries' lost-time claim rate was 2.4 per 100 person-years, the lowest rate over the last five years (see Table 2.0). The 2005 provincial lost-time claim rate was also 2.4 per 100 person-years. A lost-time claim rate of 2.4 translates to 12 lost-time claims per million hours worked.

Duration rate is intended to reflect, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work per 100 person-years. In 2005, the Wholesale and Retail industries had a duration rate of 41, the lowest in the last five years and lower than the provincial duration rate of 57.

**Table 2.0**
**Wholesale and Retail Industries — Alberta: 2001-2005**

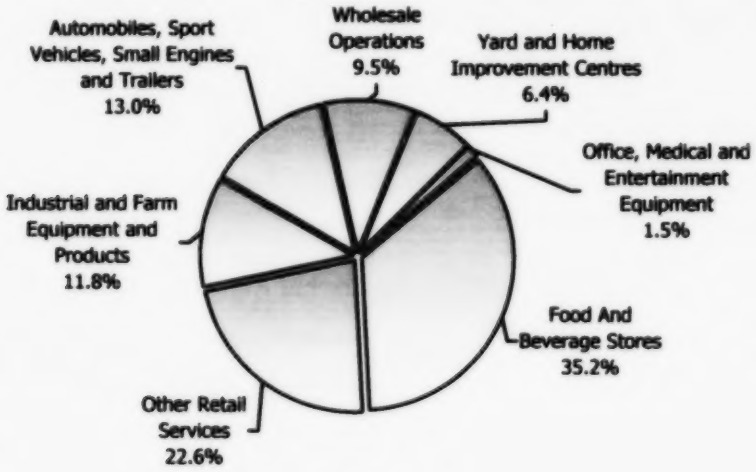
| Year | Number of Accounts | Cost | Person Years | Days Lost | Duration Rate | Lost-Time Claims | Lost-Time Claim Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 18,446 | $20,650,868 | 223,436 | 171,607 | 77 | 6,641 | 3.0 |
| 2002 | 18,538 | $22,916,448 | 231,541 | 171,060 | 74 | 6,809 | 2.9 |
| 2003 | 18,729 | $23,719,988 | 241,284 | 146,577 | 61 | 6,666 | 2.8 |
| 2004 | 18,930 | $24,883,251 | 263,534 | 139,507 | 53 | 7,012 | 2.7 |
| 2005 | 19,711 | $25,529,388 | 294,434 | 122,438 | 41 | 6,969 | 2.4 |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[1] The rate has been calculated from lost-time claims data as of March 31, 2006. This rate underestimates the risk of occupational injury and disease since some lost-time claims that occurred in 2005 were not administered by March 31, 2006.

Between 2001 and 2005, there were 34,097 lost-time claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries. The Food and Beverage Stores sub-sector accounted for over one-third of total lost-time claims, followed by Other Retail Services at 22.6%. The Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers sub-sector, Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products sub-sector, and the Wholesale Operations sub-sector accounted for 13.0%, 11.8% and 9.5% of claims respectively. The Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment sub-sector experienced the fewest lost-time claims, at 1.5% (see Chart 2.0).

**Chart 2.0**
**Percentage of Lost-Time Claims by Wholesale and Retail Sub-Sector — Alberta: 2001-2005**


Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers 13.0%
Wholesale Operations 9.5%
Yard and Home Improvement Centres 6.4%
Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment 1.5%
Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products 11.8%
Food And Beverage Stores 35.2%
Other Retail Services 22.6%

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

## 2.1 Lost-Time Claim Rate by Size of Employer

In the Wholesale and Retail industries, employers with 100 or more person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate of 2.9 per 100 person-years, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years at 2.1. Employers with less than 10 person-years had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 1.3 (see Table 2.1). For the province, employers with 20 to 39 and 40 to 99 person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate while employers with less than 10 person-years had the lowest.

**Table 2.1**
**Lost-Time Claim Rate by Size[2] of Employer — Alberta: 2005**

| Size of Employer | Number of Accounts | Lost-Time Claims | Person-Years | Lost-Time Claim Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Less than 10 person-years | 15,224 | 568 | 42,720 | 1.3 |
| 10 to 19 person-years | 1,879 | 449 | 26,424 | 1.7 |
| 20 to 39 person-years | 1,085 | 555 | 30,063 | 1.8 |
| 40 to 99 person-years | 747 | 967 | 46,683 | 2.1 |
| 100 or more person-years | 399 | 4,411 | 150,543 | 2.9 |
| Unspecified | 377 | 19 | 0 | [1] N/A |

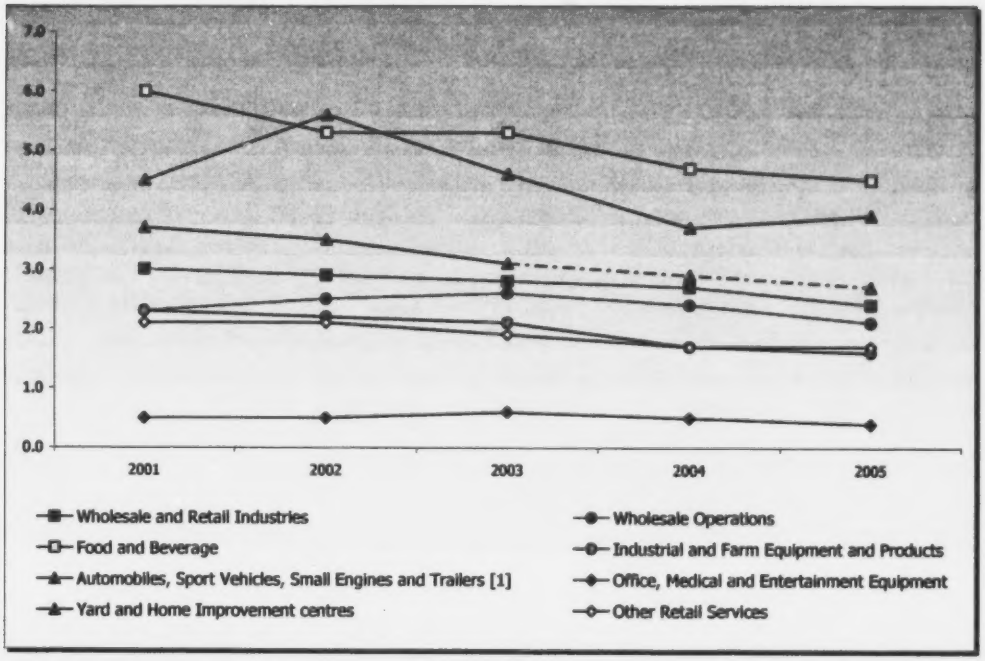
[1] These are employers with no payroll information or with person-years equal to zero.
Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

## 2.2 Lost-Time Claims by Wholesale and Retail Sub-Sector

Between 2001 and 2005, the Food and Beverage Stores sub-sector had the highest lost-time claim rate in each year except 2002 when the Yard and Home Improvement Centers sub-sector had a higher rate. The Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment sub-sector had the lowest lost-time claim rate in each year (see Chart 2.2).

[2] Size is measured in terms of person-years.

## Chart 2.2
## Lost-Time Claim Rate by Wholesale and Retail Sub-Sector — Alberta: 2001-2005




| Sub-Sector | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wholesale and Retail Industries** | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.4 |
| **Wholesale Operations** | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.1 |
| **Food and Beverage** | 6.0 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 4.5 |
| **Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products** | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| **Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers** | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.1 | [1] NA | 2.7 |
| **Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment** | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| **Yard and Home Improvement centres** | 4.5 | 5.6 | 4.6 | 3.7 | 3.9 |
| **Other Retail Services** | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.7 |

[1] 2004 data for this sub-sector includes lost-time claims for the Auto dealers industry but does not include person-years estimates. The calculation of a lost-time claim rate is therefore not comparable with other years. The trend observed in Chart 2.2 for this sub-sector, excludes claims from Auto dealers. See page 2 for further information.

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

## 2.2A Wholesale Operations

In 2005, the Wholesale Operations sub-sector had a lost-time claim rate of 2.1 per 100 person-years. The duration rate was 37 days lost per 100 person-years, a decrease of 19.6% from 2004 and the lowest in the past five years (see Table 2.2A).

### Table 2.2A
### Wholesale Operations — Alberta: 2001-2005

| Year | Number of Accounts | Cost | Person Years | Days Lost | Duration Rate | Lost-Time Claims | Lost-Time Claim Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 1,541 | $2,311,991 | 25,696 | 16,869 | 66 | 600 | 2.3 |
| 2002 | 1,513 | $2,397,537 | 26,476 | 17,076 | 64 | 669 | 2.5 |
| 2003 | 1,523 | $2,813,491 | 26,326 | 13,899 | 53 | 691 | 2.6 |
| 2004 | 1,533 | $2,705,850 | 27,897 | 12,791 | 46 | 679 | 2.4 |
| 2005 | 1,526 | $2,837,307 | 28,619 | 10,586 | 37 | 602 | 2.1 |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

## 2.2B Food and Beverage Stores

The lost-time claim rate for the Food and Beverage Stores sub-sector fell by 4.8% between 2004 and 2005 to 4.5 per 100 person-years. The duration rate was 71 days lost per 100 person-years in 2004; the lowest in the past five years and a 22.0% reduction from 2004 (see Table 2.2B).

### Table 2.2B
### Food and Beverage Stores — Alberta: 2001-2005

| Year | Number of Accounts | Cost | Person Years | Days Lost | Duration Rate | Lost-Time Claims | Lost-Time Claim Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 2,749 | $5,897,446 | 40,574 | 57,515 | 142 | 2,430 | 6.0 |
| 2002 | 2,753 | $6,799,350 | 44,846 | 58,951 | 131 | 2,389 | 5.3 |
| 2003 | 2,792 | $7,432,139 | 46,098 | 52,467 | 114 | 2,453 | 5.3 |
| 2004 | 2,769 | $6,751,949 | 50,406 | 45,758 | 91 | 2,383 | 4.7 |
| 2005 | 2,786 | $6,852,133 | 51,867 | 36,778 | 71 | 2,348 | 4.5 |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

## 2.2C Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products

The lost-time claim rate for Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products fell by 3.0% between 2004 and 2005, to 1.6 per 100 person-years. The duration rate was 38 days lost per 100 person-years, the lowest in the last five years (see Table 2.2C).

### Table 2.2C
### Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products — Alberta: 2001-2005

| Year | Number of Accounts | Cost | Person Years | Days Lost | Duration Rate | Lost-Time Claims | Lost-Time Claim Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 3,335 | $4,421,219 | 37,857 | 24,240 | 64 | 861 | 2.3 |
| 2002 | 3,401 | $4,882,724 | 38,491 | 26,332 | 68 | 839 | 2.2 |
| 2003 | 3,491 | $4,956,044 | 38,339 | 22,141 | 58 | 804 | 2.1 |
| 2004 | 3,625 | $4,552,638 | 43,420 | 19,103 | 44 | 732 | 1.7 |
| 2005 | 3,922 | $6,003,777 | 47,219 | 17,786 | 38 | 771 | 1.6 |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

## 2.2D Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers

In 2005, Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers had a lost-time claim rate of 2.7 per 100 person-years; the lowest in the past five years (see Table 2.2D).

### Table 2.2D
### Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers — Alberta: 2001-2005

| Year | Number of Accounts | Cost | Person Years | Days Lost | Duration Rate | Lost-Time Claims | Lost-Time Claim Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 3,283 | $2,899,330 | 18,614 | 22,656 | 122 | 684 | 3.7 |
| 2002 | 3,256 | $2,705,186 | 20,213 | 18,602 | 92 | 713 | 3.5 |
| 2003 | 3,267 | $2,573,056 | 20,382 | 16,057 | 79 | 624 | 3.1 |
| 2004 | 3,459 | $5,287,226 | 22,005 | 26,973 | 123 | 1,201 | [1] NA |
| 2005 | 3,656 | $4,718,318 | 48,681 | 22,912 | 81 | 1,311 | 2.7 |

[1] 2004 data for this sub-sector includes lost-time claims for the Auto dealers industry but does not include person-years estimates. The calculation of a lost-time claim rate is therefore not comparable with other years. See page 2 for further information.

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

## 2.2E Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment

In 2005, the Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment lost-time claim rate was 0.4 per 100 person-years, the lowest rate of all sub-sectors in the Wholesale and Retail industries. The duration rate decreased in 2005 to 6 days lost per 100 person-years (see Table 2.2E).

### Table 2.2E
### Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment — Alberta: 2001-2005

| Year | Number of Accounts | Cost | Person Years | Days Lost | Duration Rate | Lost-Time Claims | Lost-Time Claim Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 1,125 | $287,439 | 18,030 | 2,253 | 12 | 96 | 0.5 |
| 2002 | 1,214 | $292,526 | 17,481 | 1,856 | 11 | 90 | 0.5 |
| 2003 | 1,237 | $622,585 | 19,995 | 3,540 | 18 | 117 | 0.6 |
| 2004 | 1,256 | $319,601 | 22,422 | 1,814 | 8 | 112 | 0.5 |
| 2005 | 1,316 | $281,870 | 26,179 | 1,534 | 6 | 102 | 0.4 |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

## 2.2F Yard and Home Improvement Centres

Yard and Home Improvement Centres had a lost-time claim rate of 3.9 per 100 person-years in 2005, an increase of 6.1% from 2004. The duration rate rose 12.1%, to 65 days lost per 100 person-years (see Table 2.2F).

### Table 2.2F
### Yard and Home Improvement Centres — Alberta: 2001-2005

| Year | Number of Accounts | Cost | Person Years | Days Lost | Duration Rate | Lost-Time Claims | Lost-Time Claim Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 246 | $1,056,519 | 8,958 | 7,862 | 88 | 402 | 4.5 |
| 2002 | 240 | $1,445,714 | 9,019 | 10,863 | 120 | 508 | 5.6 |
| 2003 | 243 | $1,291,126 | 9,680 | 8,468 | 87 | 449 | 4.6 |
| 2004 | 247 | $1,110,034 | 10,478 | 6,055 | 58 | 390 | 3.7 |
| 2005 | 252 | $1,532,895 | 11,000 | 7,181 | 65 | 433 | 3.9 |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

## 2.2G Other Retail Services

The lost-time claim rate for Other Retail Services was 1.7 per 100 person-years in 2005. The duration rate decreased in 2005, from 31 days lost to 29 days lost per 100 person-years (see Table 2.2G).

**Table 2.2G**
**Other Retail Services — Alberta: 2001-2005**

| Year | Number of Accounts | Cost | Person Years | Days Lost | Duration Rate | Lost-Time Claims | Lost-Time Claim Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 6,167 | $3,776,924 | 73,707 | 40,212 | 55 | 1,568 | 2.1 |
| 2002 | 6,161 | $4,393,410 | 75,015 | 37,380 | 50 | 1,601 | 2.1 |
| 2003 | 6,176 | $4,031,547 | 80,464 | 30,005 | 37 | 1,528 | 1.9 |
| 2004 | 6,041 | $4,155,953 | 86,907 | 27,013 | 31 | 1,515 | 1.7 |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

SECTION 3

# INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS

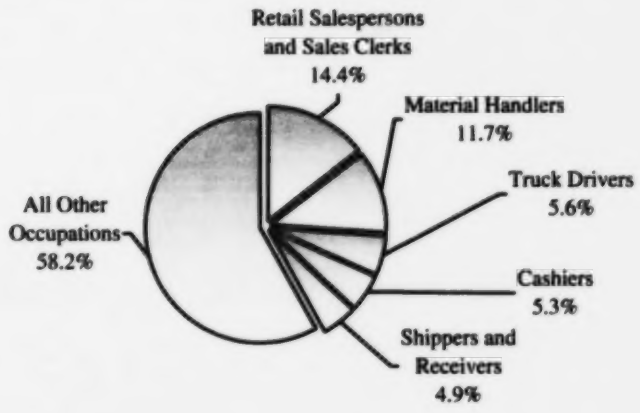
**Overexertion was the most common cause for lost-time claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries. Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the trunk being the most commonly injured body part.**

In this section, we examine the characteristics of injured workers and the nature of their injuries or diseases. Tables are provided to enable comparisons of 2005 injuries and diseases in Wholesale and Retail industries with provincial averages and trends. A detailed explanation of the formulas for calculating the indicators of the comparison tables is available in Appendix A.

## 3.1 Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2005, retail salespersons and sales clerks accounted for 14.4% of the total lost-time claims, followed by material handlers, 11.7%, truck drivers with 5.6%, and cashiers with 5.3% (see Chart 3.1A).

**Chart 3.1A**
**Lost-Time Claims by Occupation — Alberta: 2005**




Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Between 2001 and 2005, nearly half of claims were from workers aged 25 to 44 years. Young workers aged 15 to 24 accounted for 28.4% of total claims, while workers aged 45 years and older had 23.5% of claims (see Table 3.1A).

**Table 3.1A**
**Lost-Time Claims by Age — Alberta: 2001-2005**

| Age | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Total Lost-Time Claims | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15-19 Years | 797 | 797 | 719 | 740 | [illegible] | 3,745 | 11.0% |
| 20-24 Years | 1,219 | 1,165 | 1,144 | 1,217 | [illegible] | 5,947 | 17.4% |
| 25-34 Years | 1,655 | 1,618 | 1,534 | 1,642 | [illegible] | 8,047 | 23.6% |
| 35-44 Years | 1,669 | 1,740 | 1,654 | 1,696 | [illegible] | 8,340 | 24.5% |
| 45-54 Years | 903 | 1,039 | 1,096 | 1,170 | [illegible] | 5,439 | 16.0% |
| 55-64 Years | 352 | 409 | 464 | 489 | [illegible] | 2,286 | 6.7% |
| 65+ Years | 30 | 39 | 47 | 53 | [illegible] | 254 | 0.7% |
| Unspecified | 16 | 2 | 6 | 5 | [illegible] | 39 | 0.1% |
| **Total** | **6,641** | **6,809** | **6,666** | **7,012** | **[illegible]** | **34,097** | **100.0%** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Wholesale and Retail industries, 34.5% of all claims in the last five years were from women. Between 2001 and 2005, the number of lost-time claims by women varied from year to year (see Table 3.1B).

**Table 3.1B**
**Lost-Time Claims by Gender — Alberta: 2001-2005**

| Gender | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Total Lost-Time Claims | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Men | 4,207 | 4,293 | 4,269 | 4,525 | [illegible] | 21,730 | 63.7% |
| Women | 2,293 | 2,360 | 2,278 | 2,386 | [illegible] | 11,754 | 34.5% |
| Unspecified | 141 | 156 | 119 | 101 | [illegible] | 613 | 1.8% |
| **Total** | **6,641** | **6,809** | **6,666** | **7,012** | **[illegible]** | **34,097** | **100.0%** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

## 3.2 Nature of Injury or Disease

The nature of injury is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury or disease. Between 2001 and 2005, 90.4% of all lost-time claims were traumatic injuries and disorders. The four most common traumatic injuries and disorders were: sprains, strains and tears, 50.7%; surface wounds and bruises, 12.4%; open wounds, 9.5%; and fractures and dislocations, 6.7% (see Table 3.2A).

**Table 3.2A**
**Nature of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2001-2005**

| Nature of Injury or Disease | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Total Lost-Time Claims | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Traumatic Injuries and Disorders** | **5,976** | **6,128** | **5,980** | **6,335** | **[illegible]** | **30,815** | **90.4%** |
| Sprains, Strains and Tears | 3,373 | 3,514 | 3,359 | 3,446 | [illegible] | 17,297 | 50.7% |
| Surface Wounds and Bruises | 813 | 817 | 820 | 871 | [illegible] | 4,230 | 12.4% |
| Open Wounds | 694 | 607 | 651 | 631 | [illegible] | 3,227 | 9.5% |
| Fractures and Dislocations | 436 | 473 | 410 | 491 | [illegible] | 2,278 | 6.7% |
| Burns | 102 | 114 | 102 | 125 | [illegible] | 549 | 1.6% |
| Other Traumatic Injuries and Diseases | 558 | 603 | 638 | 771 | [illegible] | 3,234 | 9.5% |
| **Systemic Diseases and Disorders** | **310** | **324** | **344** | **360** | **[illegible]** | **1,656** | **4.9%** |
| **Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders** | **19** | **19** | **16** | **20** | **[illegible]** | **91** | **0.3%** |
| **Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions** | **17** | **14** | **26** | **18** | **[illegible]** | **94** | **0.3%** |
| **Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders** | **2** | **2** | **1** | **0** | **[illegible]** | **5** | **<0.1%** |
| **Infectious and Parasitic Diseases** | **0** | **2** | **2** | **1** | **[illegible]** | **6** | **<0.1%** |
| **Neoplasms, Tumors and Cancer** | **0** | **1** | **0** | **0** | **[illegible]** | **1** | **<0.1%** |
| **Nature of Injury - Unknown** | **317** | **319** | **297** | **278** | **[illegible]** | **1,429** | **4.2%** |
| **Total** | **6,641** | **6,809** | **6,666** | **7,012** | **[illegible]** | **34,097** | **100** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2005, sprains, strains and tears accounted for 51.7% of all claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries. All type of injuries for the Wholesale and Retail industries were lower than or equal to the provincial average, except sprains, strains and tears and surface wounds and bruises, which were 1.1 times higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.2B).

**Table 3.2B**
**Nature of Injury or Disease — Comparison 2005[3]**

| Nature of Injury or Disease | % of Wholesale and Retail Industries' Claims | % of Total Provincial Claims | Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Traumatic Injuries and Disorders** | **91.6%** | **90.9%** | **1.0** |
| Sprains, Strains and Tears | 51.7% | 47.6% | 1.1 |
| Surface Wounds and Bruises | 13.0% | 11.5% | 1.1 |
| Open Wounds | 9.2% | 9.2% | 1.0 |
| Fractures and Dislocations | 6.7% | 8.9% | 0.7 |
| Burns | 1.5% | 2.7% | 0.5 |
| Other Traumatic Injuries and Diseases | 9.5% | 10.9% | 0.9 |
| **Systemic Diseases and Disorders** | **4.6%** | **4.9%** | **0.9** |
| **Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders** | **0.2%** | **0.2%** | **1.0** |
| **Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions** | **0.3%** | **0.3%** | **0.8** |
| **Infectious and Parasitic Diseases** | **<0.1%** | **<0.1%** | **0.3** |
| **Nature of Injury - Unknown** | **3.1%** | **4.0%** | **0.9** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[3] Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

## 3.3 Part of Body Injured

Between 2001 and 2005, the trunk was the main injured body part, accounting for 41.8% of total lost-time claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries, followed by upper extremities at 24.0%, and lower extremities at 19.3%.

The most common trunk injury was to the back, including spine and spinal cord, representing 30.0% of total lost-time claims (see Table 3.3A).

### Table 3.3A
### Part of Body Injured — Alberta: 2001-2005

| Part of Body Injured | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Total Lost-Time Claims | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Trunk** | **2,807** | **2,816** | **2,784** | **2,922** | **[illegible]** | **14,238** | **41.8%** |
| Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord | 2,037 | 2,022 | 1,981 | 2,111 | [illegible] | 10,218 | 30.0% |
| Other Trunk | 770 | 794 | 803 | 811 | [illegible] | 4,020 | 11.8% |
| **Upper Extremities** | **1,664** | **1,650** | **1,553** | **1,676** | **[illegible]** | **8,182** | **24.0%** |
| Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s) | 631 | 638 | 611 | 646 | [illegible] | 3,183 | 9.3% |
| Finger(s), Fingernail(s) | 595 | 564 | 524 | 560 | [illegible] | 2,768 | 8.1% |
| Other Upper Extremities | 438 | 448 | 418 | 470 | [illegible] | 2,231 | 6.5% |
| **Lower Extremities** | **1,255** | **1,315** | **1,285** | **1,339** | **[illegible]** | **6,566** | **19.3%** |
| Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes | 559 | 597 | 605 | 621 | [illegible] | 3,042 | 8.9% |
| Leg(s) | 569 | 586 | 553 | 614 | [illegible] | 2,930 | 8.6% |
| Other Lower Extremities | 127 | 132 | 127 | 104 | [illegible] | 594 | 1.7% |
| **Head** | **395** | **407** | **428** | **499** | **[illegible]** | **2196** | **6.4%** |
| Eye(s) | 169 | 151 | 152 | 189 | [illegible] | 821 | 2.4% |
| Other Head Parts | 226 | 256 | 276 | 310 | [illegible] | 1,375 | 4.0% |
| **Multiple Body Parts** | **320** | **452** | **437** | **387** | **[illegible]** | **1,971** | **5.8%** |
| **Neck, Including Throat** | **150** | **136** | **133** | **140** | **[illegible]** | **727** | **2.1%** |
| **Body Systems** | **33** | **26** | **27** | **34** | **[illegible]** | **143** | **0.4%** |
| **Other Body Parts** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **3** | **[illegible]** | **10** | **<0.1%** |
| **Part of Body - Unknown** | **16** | **5** | **18** | **12** | **[illegible]** | **64** | **0.2%** |
| **Total** | **6,641** | **6,809** | **6,666** | **7,012** | **[illegible]** | **34,097** | **100.0%** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2005, the back, including spine and spinal cord accounted for 29.7% of all claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries. This was 1.1 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for this part of body category for the whole province. All other part of body categories were less than or equal to the provincial average with ankle(s) and foot (feet) except toes, being the only exception (see Table 3.3B).

**Table 3.3B**
**Part of Body Injured — Comparison 2005[4]**

| Part of Body Injured | % of Wholesale and Retail Industries' Claims | % of Total Provincial Claims | Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Trunk** | **41.8%** | **38.6%** | **1.1** |
| Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord | 29.7% | 26.0% | 1.1 |
| Other Trunk | 12.1% | 12.6% | 0.9 |
| **Upper Extremities** | **23.5%** | **23.8%** | **1.0** |
| Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s) | 9.4% | 9.2% | 1.0 |
| Finger(s), Fingernail(s) | 7.5% | 8.1% | 0.9 |
| Other Upper Extremities | 6.6% | 6.5% | 1.0 |
| **Lower Extremities** | **19.7%** | **19.8%** | **1.0** |
| Ankle(s) and Foot(Feet) Except Toes | 9.5% | 8.8% | 1.1 |
| Leg(s) | 8.7% | 9.8% | 0.9 |
| Other Lower Extremities | 1.5% | 1.2% | 1.2 |
| **Head** | **6.7%** | **7.9%** | **1.0** |
| Eye(s) | 2.3% | 3.2% | 0.7 |
| Other Head Parts | 4.4% | 4.7% | 0.9 |
| **Multiple Body Parts** | **5.4%** | **7.0%** | **0.8** |
| **Neck, Including Throat** | **2.4%** | **2.3%** | **1.0** |
| **Body Systems** | **0.3%** | **0.5%** | **0.7** |
| **Part of Body - Unknown** | **0.2%** | **0.2%** | **0.9** |
| **Other Body Parts** | **<0.1%** | **0.1%** | **0.8** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[4] Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

## 3.4 Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease describes the object or substance that the worker came into contact with resulting in an injury or disease.

The two primary sources of injury for the lost-time claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries between 2001 and 2005 were containers, 19.3% and persons, plants, animals, and minerals, 18.4% (see Table 3.4A).

### Table 3.4A
### Source of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2001-2005

| Source of Injury or Disease | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Total Lost-Time Claims | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Containers [1]** | **1,362** | **1,283** | **1,286** | **1,320** | **1,345** | **6,596** | **19.3%** |
| **Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals** | **1,056** | **1,219** | **1,297** | **1,352** | **1,352** | **6,276** | **18.4%** |
| Person - Injured Worker or Ill Worker | 932 | 1,087 | 1,168 | 1,240 | 1,229 | 5,656 | 16.6% |
| Person - Other Than Injured or Ill Worker [2] | 35 | 44 | 35 | 27 | 39 | 180 | 0.5% |
| Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel) | 8 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 38 | 0.1% |
| Other Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals | 81 | 79 | 89 | 77 | 76 | 402 | 1.2% |
| **Structures and Surfaces** | **674** | **766** | **832** | **912** | **894** | **4,078** | **12.0%** |
| **Parts and Materials** | **644** | **597** | **607** | **668** | **665** | **3,181** | **9.3%** |
| **Machinery** | **544** | **469** | **530** | **526** | **550** | **2,619** | **7.7%** |
| **Vehicles** | **450** | **482** | **456** | **516** | **503** | **2,407** | **7.1%** |
| **Tools** | **342** | **334** | **337** | **375** | **372** | **1760** | **5.2%** |
| Hand tools - Non powered | 241 | 222 | 236 | 247 | 248 | 1,194 | 3.5% |
| Hand tools - Powered | 32 | 30 | 37 | 27 | 35 | 161 | 0.5% |
| Other Tools and Equipment | 69 | 82 | 64 | 101 | 89 | 405 | 1.2% |
| **Furniture and Fixtures** | **310** | **314** | **322** | **313** | **342** | **1,601** | **4.7%** |
| **Chemicals and Chemical Products** | **66** | **60** | **71** | **56** | **74** | **327** | **1.0%** |
| **Other Sources** | **191** | **175** | **240** | **279** | **275** | **1,160** | **3.4%** |
| **Source of Injury - Unknown** | **1,002** | **1,110** | **688** | **695** | **597** | **4,092** | **12.0%** |
| **Total** | **6,641** | **6,809** | **6,666** | **7,012** | **6,969** | **34,097** | **100.0%** |

[1] Containers: classifies receptacles that are commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.).
[2] Person – other than injured or ill worker: classifies injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2005, containers accounted for 19.3% of all claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries. This was 1.9 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for this source of injury category for the whole province. All sources of injuries for the Wholesale and Retail industries were equal to or lower than the provincial average, except for containers, other persons, plants, animals and minerals, machinery, and furniture and fixtures (see Table 3.4B).

**Table 3.4B**
**Source of Injury or Disease — Comparison 2005[5]**

| Source of Injury or Disease | % of Wholesale and Retail Industries' Claims | % of Total Provincial Claims | Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Containers** | **19.3%** | **10.1%** | **1.9** |
| **Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals** | **19.4%** | **24.5%** | **0.8** |
| Person - Injured Worker or Ill Worker | 17.6% | 17.4% | 1.0 |
| Person - Other Than Injured or Ill Worker | 0.6% | 5.0% | 0.1 |
| Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel) | 0.1% | 0.4% | 0.3 |
| Other Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals | 1.1% | 1.7% | 1.1 |
| **Structures and Surfaces** | **12.8%** | **16.7%** | **0.8** |
| **Parts and Materials** | **9.5%** | **10.5%** | **0.9** |
| **Machinery** | **7.9%** | **5.6%** | **1.4** |
| **Vehicles** | **7.2%** | **7.4%** | **1.0** |
| **Tools, Instruments and Equipment** | **5.4%** | **6.7%** | **0.8** |
| Hand tools - Non powered | 3.6% | 3.4% | 1.0 |
| Hand tools - Powered | 0.5% | 1.1% | 0.5 |
| Other Tools and Equipment | 1.3% | 2.2% | 0.6 |
| **Furniture and Fixtures** | **4.9%** | **3.1%** | **1.5** |
| **Chemicals and Chemical Products** | **1.1%** | **1.2%** | **0.8** |
| **Other Sources** | **3.9%** | **5.2%** | **0.7** |
| **Source of Injury - Unknown** | **8.6%** | **8.8%** | **0.9** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[5] Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

## 3.5 Type of Event or Exposure

The type of event or exposure describes the incident or event that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease.

The two most common types of event or exposure comprised 73.3% of total lost-time claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries over the last five years. They are: bodily reaction and exertion, 45.8% and contact with objects and equipment, 27.5% (see Table 3.5A).

## Table 3.5A
## Type of Event or Exposure — Alberta: 2001-2005

| Type of Event or Exposure | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Total Lost-Time Claims | Total % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bodily Reaction and Exertion** | **2,989** | **3,043** | **3,141** | **3,227** | **3,225** | **15,625** | **45.8%** |
| Overexertion | 2,031 | 1,936 | 1,926 | 1,901 | 1,920 | 9,714 | 28.5% |
| Bodily Reaction [1] | 657 | 757 | 791 | 844 | 851 | 3,900 | 11.4% |
| Repetitive Motion | 227 | 263 | 307 | 341 | 315 | 1,453 | 4.3% |
| Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion | 74 | 87 | 117 | 141 | 139 | 558 | 1.6% |
| **Contact With Objects and Equipment** | **1,911** | **1,802** | **1,786** | **1,920** | **1,963** | **9,382** | **27.5%** |
| Struck by Object | 1,008 | 988 | 993 | 1,015 | 1,090 | 5,094 | 14.9% |
| Struck against Object | 474 | 424 | 395 | 430 | 432 | 2,155 | 6.3% |
| Caught in Object | 337 | 317 | 310 | 322 | 311 | 1,597 | 4.7% |
| Rubbed or Abraded | 81 | 50 | 52 | 77 | 74 | 334 | 1.0% |
| Other Contact with Object/Equipment | 11 | 23 | 36 | 76 | 56 | 202 | 0.6% |
| **Falls** | **814** | **830** | **908** | **986** | **946** | **4,484** | **13.2%** |
| Fall on Same Level | 467 | 519 | 617 | 662 | 631 | 2,896 | 8.5% |
| Fall to Lower Level | 271 | 237 | 242 | 264 | 232 | 1,246 | 3.7% |
| Other Falls | 76 | 74 | 49 | 60 | 83 | 342 | 1.0% |
| **Transportation Accidents** | **217** | **235** | **233** | **268** | **312** | **1,265** | **3.7%** |
| **Exposure to Harmful Substances** | **150** | **141** | **150** | **180** | **181** | **802** | **2.4%** |
| **Assaults and Violent Acts** | **39** | **40** | **43** | **36** | **42** | **200** | **0.6%** |
| Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s) | 32 | 36 | 35 | 27 | 34 | 164 | 0.5% |
| Other Assaults and Violent Acts | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 36 | 0.1% |
| **Fires and Explosions** | **10** | **6** | **13** | **10** | **7** | **46** | **0.1%** |
| **Other Events or Exposures** | **0** | **1** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **1** | **<0.1%** |
| **Type of Event - Unknown** | **511** | **711** | **392** | **385** | **293** | **2,292** | **6.7%** |
| **Total** | **6,641** | **6,809** | **6,666** | **7,012** | **6,969** | **34,097** | **100.0%** |

[1] Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.
Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2005, overexertion accounted for 27.6% of all claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries. This was 1.2 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for this type of event category for the whole province. All types of events or exposures for the Wholesale and Retail industries were equal to or lower than the provincial average, except for overexertion, struck by object, and struck against object (see Table 3.5B).

**Table 3.5B**
**Type of Event or Exposure — Comparison 2005[6]**

| Type of Event or Exposure | % of Wholesale and Retail Industries' Claims | % of Total Provincial Claims | Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Bodily Reaction and Exertion** | **46.3%** | **41.4%** | **0.5** |
| Overexertion | 27.6% | 23.0% | 1.2 |
| Bodily Reaction | 12.2% | 11.8% | 1.0 |
| Repetitive Motion | 4.5% | 4.7% | 0.9 |
| Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion | 2.0% | 1.9% | 1.0 |
| **Contact With Objects and Equipment** | **28.2%** | **25.5%** | **1.1** |
| Struck by Object | 15.6% | 13.2% | 1.2 |
| Struck against Object | 6.2% | 5.5% | 1.1 |
| Caught in Object | 4.5% | 4.4% | 1.0 |
| Rubbed or Abraded | 1.1% | 1.5% | 0.7 |
| Other Contact with Object/Equipment | 0.8% | 0.9% | 0.8 |
| **Falls** | **13.6%** | **16.9%** | **0.8** |
| Fall on Same Level | 9.1% | 10.4% | 0.9 |
| Fall to Lower Level | 3.3% | 5.0% | 0.7 |
| Other Falls | 1.2% | 1.5% | 0.8 |
| **Transportation Accidents** | **4.5%** | **4.9%** | **0.9** |
| **Exposure to Harmful Substances** | **2.6%** | **4.6%** | **0.6** |
| **Assaults and Violent Acts** | **0.6%** | **1.6%** | **0.4** |
| Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s) | 0.5% | 1.3% | 0.4 |
| Other Assaults and Violent Acts | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.4 |
| **Fires and Explosions** | **0.1%** | **0.2%** | **0.6** |
| **Type of Event - Unknown** | **4.2%** | **4.9%** | **0.8** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[6] Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

## 3.6 Duration of Disability

Duration of disability[7] is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. However, the efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce can have a major impact on workdays lost.

Over half of claims resulted in a duration of disability of 10 days or less. Claims with one to five days duration represented 43.5% of all claims, and claims with six to ten days duration accounted for 14.7%. Claims resulting in duration of disability of 51 days or more represented 12.4% of all claims (see Table 3.6A).

**Table 3.6A**
**Duration of Disability — Alberta: 2001-2005**

| Duration of Disability | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Total Lost-Time Claims | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-5 Days | 2,825 | 2,862 | 2,868 | 3,068 | [illegible] | 14,826 | 43.5% |
| 6-10 Days | 941 | 1,023 | 969 | 1,048 | [illegible] | 5,005 | 14.7% |
| 11-15 Days | 532 | 556 | 506 | 512 | [illegible] | 2,697 | 7.9% |
| 16-20 Days | 330 | 326 | 336 | 349 | [illegible] | 1,682 | 4.9% |
| 21-30 Days | 397 | 424 | 457 | 500 | [illegible] | 2,185 | 6.4% |
| 31-40 Days | 268 | 276 | 314 | 329 | [illegible] | 1,489 | 4.4% |
| 41-50 Days | 215 | 213 | 194 | 216 | [illegible] | 1,033 | 3.0% |
| 51 Days or More | 998 | 1,009 | 831 | 759 | [illegible] | 4,221 | 12.4% |
| Unspecified | 135 | 120 | 191 | 231 | [illegible] | 959 | 2.8% |
| **Total** | **6,641** | **6,809** | **6,666** | **7,012** | [illegible] | **34,097** | **100.0%** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[7] The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

In 2005, claims resulting in one to five days duration of disability accounted for 46.0% of all claims in the Wholesale and Retail industries. This was 1.1 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for claims of this duration for the whole province. All other durations of disability were equal to or lower than the provincial average (see Table 3.6B).

**Table 3.6B**
**Duration of Disability — Comparison 2005[5]**

| Duration of Disability | % of Wholesale and Retail Industries' Claims | % of Total Provincial Claims | Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1-5 Days | 46.0% | 40.4% | 1.1 |
| 6-10 Days | 14.7% | 13.8% | 1.0 |
| 11-15 Days | 8.5% | 7.9% | 1.0 |
| 16-20 Days | 4.9% | 5.3% | 0.9 |
| 21-30 Days | 5.8% | 6.9% | 0.8 |
| 31-40 Days | 4.3% | 5.0% | 0.9 |
| 41-50 Days | 2.8% | 3.6% | 0.8 |
| 51 Days or More | 9.0% | 13.4% | 0.7 |
| Unspecified | 4.0% | 3.6% | 1.1 |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[5] Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

SECTION 4

# OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

## In 2005 the WCB accepted eleven fatalities in the Wholesale and Retail industries, accounting for 7.7% of all 143 fatalities in the province.

A WCB accepted occupational fatality is defined as the death of a worker, resulting from a work-related incident or exposure, which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. Some of the fatalities accepted in a particular year occurred in prior years. Unless otherwise specified, occupational fatalities in this report refer to occupational fatalities accepted by the WCB. The WCB classifies occupational fatalities into three general types:

### Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor vehicle incidents typically involve non-industrial vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This type of occupational fatality also includes cases involving aircraft crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes and water vehicle crashes. In 2005, four of the Wholesale and Retail fatalities accepted by WCB were motor vehicle incidents (see Table 4.0).

### Workplace Incidents

Workplace incidents consist of cases in which the worker died at a worksite or as a result of injuries sustained at a worksite. This is the type of fatality that AHRE typically investigates. In 2005, four of the Wholesale and Retail fatalities accepted by WCB were workplace incidents (see Table 4.0).

### Occupational Disease

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related such as asbestosis and black lung disease. This category also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed several years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance, and in such cases, it is difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category, therefore, should not be interpreted to reflect present worksite hazardous conditions or exposures.*

Each year the WCB accepts some occupational fatality claims for compensation. Occupational fatality claims that were accepted in a particular year may include fatalities from prior years. In 2005, three of the fatalities accepted by WCB in the Wholesale and Retail industries were occupational disease incidents (see Table 4.0).

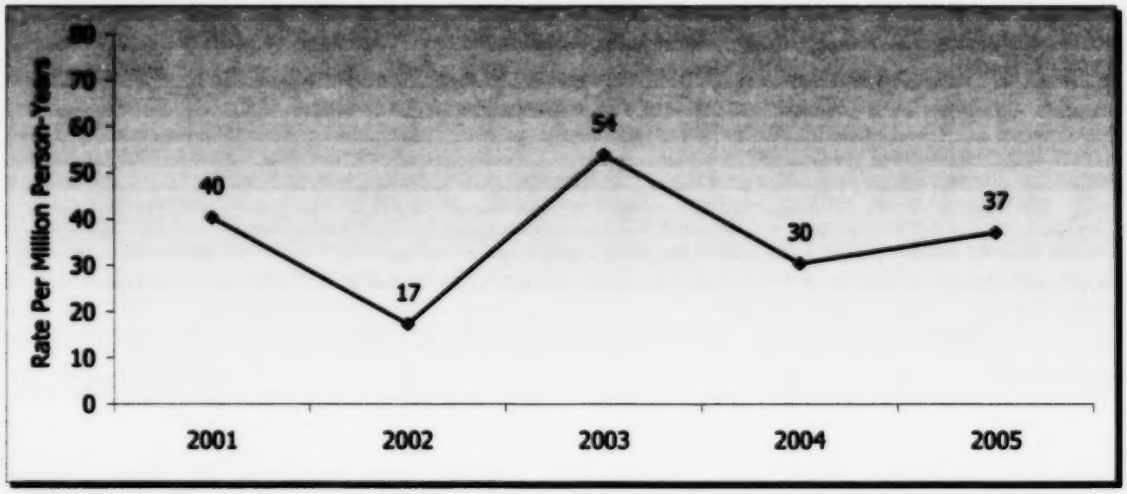
**Table 4.0**
**Types of Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB – Alberta: 2001-2005**

| Year | Motor Vehicle Incident | | Workplace Incident | | Occupational Disease | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of Fatalities | % | Number of Fatalities | % | Number of Fatalities | % | Number of Fatalities |
| 2001 | 3 | 33.3% | 3 | 33.3% | 3 | 33.3% | 9 |
| 2002 | 2 | 50.0% | 1 | 25.0% | 1 | 25.0% | 4 |
| 2003 | 4 | 30.8% | 1 | 7.7% | 8 | 61.5% | 13 |
| 2004 | 3 | 37.5% | 1 | 12.5% | 4 | 50.0% | 8 |
| 2005 | 4 | 36.4% | 4 | 36.4% | 3 | 27.3% | 11 |
| Total | 16 | 35.6% | 10 | 22.2% | 19 | 42.2% | 45 |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities in the year by the number of person-years in that year. The result is expressed as "per million person-years." The 2005 fatality rate was 37 per million person-years, a 23.3% increase from 2004 (see Chart 4.0).

**Chart 4.0**
**Fatality Rate[9] in Wholesale and Retail Industries: 2001-2005**




Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[9] Estimates are based upon information provided by the WCB. Fatalities occurring under Government of Canada jurisdiction are excluded from the calculation of the fatality rates.

Between 2001 and 2005, the WCB accepted 45 fatalities in the Wholesale and Retail industries. The Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products sub-sector had the most with 21 fatalities, accounting for 46.7% of total fatalities (see Table 4.1).

**Table 4.1**
**Wholesale and Retail Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB by Sub-Sector – Alberta: 2001-2005**

| | | | | | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sub-Sector | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Number of Fatalities | % |
| Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 13.3% |
| Food and Beverage Stores | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 8.9% |
| Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products | 5 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 21 | 46.7% |
| Other Retail Services | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8.9% |
| Wholesale Operations | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 15.6% |
| Yard and Home Improvement Centres | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6.7% |
| **Wholesale and Retail Industries** | **9** | **4** | **13** | **8** | **11** | **45** | **100.0%** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

SECTION 5

# CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION EMPLOYERS

**A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Certificates are issued by Certifying Partners and are co-signed by AHRE[10].**

In 2005, fewer than two percent of Wholesale and Retail industries' employers were COR holders although these employers represented 14.5% of the total person-years in the Wholesale and Retail industries. Five per cent of Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products employers had valid CORs in 2005, representing 36.5% of the total person-years in that sub-sector (see Table 5.0).

**Table 5.0**
**Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2005**

| Sub-Sector | Number of Certified Employers | Total Number of Employers | % of Total Employers Certified | % of Total Person-Years Certified |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers | 57 | 3,898 | 1.5% | 6.2% |
| Food and Beverage Stores | 10 | 2,786 | 0.4% | 18.3% |
| Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products | 198 | 3,922 | 5.0% | 36.5% |
| Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment | 5 | 1,316 | 0.4% | 4.9% |
| Other Retail Services | 21 | 6,011 | 0.3% | 6.9% |
| Wholesale Operations | 19 | 1,526 | 1.2% | 9.3% |
| Yard and Home Improvement Centres | 13 | 252 | 5.2% | 30.2% |
| **Wholesale and Retail Industries** | **323** | **19,711** | **1.6%** | **14.5%** |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[10] For more information on the COR program visit http://www.hre.gov.ab.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/277.html

Between 2004 and 2005, the lost-time claim rate for 2005 COR holders in Wholesale and Retail decreased from 2.9 in 2004 to 2.7 in 2005. The rate for non-COR holders also decreased, from 2.6 to 2.3. For the province, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders remained the same at 2.4 and non-COR holders experienced a decrease from 2.6 to 2.4 in their lost-time claim rates (see Table 5.1).

**Table 5.1**
**Lost-Time Claim Rate for Wholesale and Retail COR Holders — Alberta: 2004 and 2005**

| Employer | Year | Wholesale and Retail Industries | | | | Province | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | LTCIs | Person-Years | LTC Rate | Change in LTC Rate | LTCIs | Person-Years | LTC Rate | Change in LTC Rate |
| COR | 2004 | 1,179 | 40,536 | 2.9 | -8.1% | 10,563 | 431,347 | 2.4 | -3.0% |
| | 2005 | 1,145 | 42,840 | 2.7 | | 11,093 | 467,041 | 2.4 | |
| Non-COR | 2004 | 5,833 | 222,998 | 2.6 | -12.2% | 23,869 | 921,867 | 2.6 | -6.2% |
| | 2005 | 5,824 | 253,594 | 2.3 | | 24,367 | 1,003,280 | 2.4 | |

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

# APPENDIX A: TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

A

**Lost-Time Claim**

A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease that causes the worker to have time away from work, beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function.

**Person-Years**

Person-years are estimates calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB. Alberta Human Resources and Employment uses data to estimate an average industry wage, and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years for each employer and each industry. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.

**Lost-Time Claim Rate**

The lost-time claim (LTC) rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-year estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The LTC rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work, that will result in lost-time from work. Comparisons of LTC rates between industries, or between years, can be used to indicate increases, decreases, or differences in this risk.

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

**Duration (Days Lost)**

The duration of disability is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from the WCB. Alberta Human Resources and Employment obtains these data on March 31 of the year following the claim year, and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the duration information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease.

**Duration Rate**

The duration rate is calculated by dividing the number of workdays lost (disability days) by the person-year estimate, and multiplying by 100. The result is expressed as days lost per 100 person-years, and indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. Duration rates are not recommended as reliable indicators of full economic cost. In addition, readers are warned that duration rates are highly unstable when based on only a few lost-time claims; it is recommended that the duration rate not be calculated based upon fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

$$\text{Duration Rate} = \frac{\text{Disability Days} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

**Cost of Claims**

Compensation cost of a claim is the reimbursement of full or partial lost wages that a worker received from the WCB due to occupational illness or injury.

**WCB Accepted Fatality**

An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which resulted from a work-related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted.

**Fatality Rate**

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities by the person-years estimate and multiplying the result by one million. The result is expressed as fatalities per million person-years. Fatalities that are found under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada are excluded before the calculation of the fatality rate.

$$\text{Fatality Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Fatalities} \times 1{,}000{,}000}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

**Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average**

The number of times higher/lower than the provincial average is used to compare the performance of the industries with the province regarding specific injury or disease. A number less than one indicates that the injury of the industries is lower than the provincial average; if equal to one it indicates the injury of the industries is the same as the provincial average and a number greater than one indicates that the injury of the industries is higher than the provincial average.

$$\frac{\text{Percent of Total Claims for the Industries} \times \text{Industries' LTC Rate}}{\text{Percent of Total Claims for the Province} \times \text{Provincial LTC Rate}}$$

Where:

Percent of Total Claims for the Industries =

$$\frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Industries (e.g. back injury)} \times 100}{\text{Total LTCs for the Industries}}$$

Percent of Total Claims for the Province =

$$\frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Province (e.g. back injury)} \times 100}{\text{Total LTCs for the Province}}$$

**NEC** Means 'Not Elsewhere Classified'.

**UNS** Means 'Unspecified'.

# APPENDIX B: WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WCB INDUSTRY CODES[11]

B

### 1. Wholesale Operations

62900 – Wholesale with or without Warehousing
69916 – Wholesale Food Distribution

### 2. Food and Beverage Stores

63100 – Food/Convenience Stores
63103 – Butcher Shops/Home Provisioners
63105 – Liquor/Wine/Beer Sales Outlets
65406 – Gas Bar/Car Wash – No Auto Service

### 3. Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products

37902 – Chemical Products – Packaging/Distribution
52400 – Grain/Seed Handling Operations
60800 – Bulk Petroleum Dealers
62200 – Farm Implement Dealers
62201 – Mobile Equipment Dealers
62302 – Machinery/Equipment - Sales, Service, Repair (NEC)
62303 – Industrial Supply Stores
69300 – Propane Dealers
86905 – Safety Equipment – Sale/Rental
89910 – Industrial and Oilfield Equipment – Rental

### 4. Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers

16300 – Tire Retreading
62701 – Auto Wreckers
65400 – Service Stations
65600 – Auto Dealers
65800 – Automobile Body Repair
65808 – General Automotive Repair
65809 – Electroplating Auto Parts
69912 – Trailers – Sales/ Rental with Service
69915 – Sport Vehicles – Sale/Service
89922 – Industrial Camp Trailers – Rental

[11] Codes are Workers' Compensation Board 2005 industry codes.

### 5. Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment

33901 – Medical Equipment – Sales/Service
62300 – Office Equipment – Sales/Service
67602 – Entertainment Equipment – Sales/Service

### 6. Yard and Home Improvement Centres

25403 – Home Improvement Centres
69301 – Coal/Wood Yards

### 7. Other Retail Services

62903 – Sales Operations (NEC)
64200 – Department/General Stores
66300 – Shoe Stores
66900 – Clothing/Yard Goods Stores
67300 – Hardware/Auto Parts Stores/Etc.
67601 – Furniture Stores
67604 – Appliances – Sales/Service
67802 – Household Appliances – Service Only
68100 – Drug Stores
69100 – Book/Stationery Stores/Etc.
69200 – Florists – Retail/Wholesale
69500 – Jewellery Stores
69901 – Auctions (NEC)
69904 – Novelty/Gift/Hobby Stores/Etc.
69914 – Pet/Seed/Feed Stores
86909 – Inventory Services
89100 – Travelling Sales/Manufacturing Agents
89908 – Small Equipment/Appliances - Rental

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**Alberta Human Resources and Employment website:**

http://www.hre.gov.ab.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/563.html

**Work Safe Alberta website:**

http://www3.gov.ab.ca/hre/whs/worksafely/index.asp

**Workplace Health and Safety Contact Centre:**

Telephone: 780-415-8690, toll free by calling 1-866-415-8690

http://www.hre.gov.ab.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/2874.html

**Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program:**

http://www.hre.gov.ab.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/277.html